

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO. [] 25X1
 SUBJECT Berlin Situation as of 10 P.M., 17 July DATE DISTR. 20 July 1953
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BY CABLE

1. The Schlosspark in Friedrichsfelde was blocked off by barricades guarded by two Soviet sentries each. The area was heavily occupied by Soviet and KVP troops.
2. Fifty to 60 tanks were observed in the government area in Pankow. About 40 cars and 20 trucks occupied by Soviet infantry accompanied the tanks. About 200 T-34 tanks were reported to be located in the Volkspark.
3. The casernes on Treskow Allee in Karlshorst were occupied by strong Soviet infantry units. []
4. The Rennbahn in Karlshorst was closed to civilian traffic. Motorized infantry was seen in the area. A car [] and a truck loaded with gasoline drums [] were observed there.
5. One troop train consisting of 40 cars was observed at the Betriebsbahnhof in Oberschoeneweide. Two other trains had already been unloaded. []
6. An AT unit was unloaded at the Oberschoeneweide railroad station at 8:30 A.M. on 16 July. The unit left for an unknown destination at 4:45 P.M.
7. Soviet troops were reported to have left Eberswalde, Fuerstenwalde, Luckenwalde and Forst Zinna. KVP elements were seen leaving Potsdam/Golm and Stern-Buchholz. Other KVP troops were reported to be moving from the Eggesin area toward Frankfurt/Oder.
8. Soviet troop movements from Aken toward the general area of Jena-Auerstedt have been taking place since the beginning of July.
9. The slaughter of domestic animals has been forbidden in the Dessau area. The animals are to be held available for the SCC.

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10. The KVP in East Berlin has been put under the control of Soviet military authorities. The S Bahn and U Bahn control stations as well as border check points have once more been occupied by the police.
11. It is confirmed that extensive unloading operations of troops took place at the Kaulsdorf railroad station. Residents of the area were unable to sleep in the past two nights because of the noise. Trucks are moving quartermaster stores from Kaulsdorf to the Volkspark area.

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Comments:

1. U.S. Army authorities have tentatively identified the 7th Guards Mechanized Division as the unit which has moved into East Berlin. It is possible that elements of a second division are located 20 to 30 miles east of the city. Two hundred and forty tanks are believed to be in the Soviet Sector. Although only 1500 men have been counted, it is believed that a full division has now moved in.
2. Excluding an attack on West Berlin, three possibilities may account for the re-entry of troops into Berlin.
 - A. The troops are to serve as a long-range security and occupation force.
 - B. In anticipation of a renewal of the Berlin riots.
 - C. In anticipation of a violent reaction of the East Berlin populace to the coming purge of the government and the SED and the replacement of established figures by unknowns. The possibility exists that in connection with the purge, the sector boundaries may be sealed temporarily or permanently.

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Comment: It is believed that the third possibility is the most likely one. The victims of the purge may attempt to escape to the West and the workers, taking advantage of the confusion and instability, may seize the opportunity to demonstrate again.

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